

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 3, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

Page 1, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--

Page 2, between lines 31 and 32, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 3, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

--According to the present invention, the conduction time is calculated according to the following steps:

- predetermining the conduction time,
- carrying out at least one measurement of the current in the primary circuit at an instant lying in the last tenth of the predetermined conduction time,
- estimating the current at the end of the predetermined conduction time, as a function of the measurement(s) carried out,
- ~~optionally~~ optimally correcting the conduction time for the ignition cycle during which the last current measurement was carried out, as a function of the previous estimate and the current desired at the end of the conduction time.--

Page 4, between lines 37 and 38, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 5, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following
heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--